

Matthew 5:43-48

Application Questions

1. Do you consider yourself having any enemies? If not, who are the people most difficult for you to love? Why are they such a challenge?

2. Of the four things Jesus tells us to do in verse 44, which is the most difficult for you? Why?

3. What are specific and practical ways that you can do these things by God's grace?
 - Love your enemies:

 - Bless those who curse you:

 - Do good to those who hate you:

 - Pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you:

4. It is easy for us to focus on those who have hurt or offended us. But keep in mind that we were once enemies of God (Romans 5:10) who offended Him and grieved His Holy Spirit. Look back over the list of four things in the previous question. When have you been the offender against God? How has He responded to you?

5. Do you agree that to "be perfect" as your Heavenly Father is perfect is to be perfected in love? Why or why not? Read John 15:1-5. How can you bear more of the fruit of God's perfect love?